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REMARKS

Attached is a marked-up version of the changes being made by the current amendment.

Applicant asks that all claims be examined. Enclosed is a \$492 check for excess claim fees. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 18 2002

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Version with markings to show changes made

In the claims:

Claims 40 and 55 have been amended as follows:

40. (Twice amended) A method of operating a pulsed laser system comprising:
providing a pulsed laser system comprising a laser source and a switch configured to be closed to cause energy to be stored by the laser source for a desired period of time, and to be opened to allow energy to be emitted from the laser source during an emission period;
presetting a pre-selected pulse shape to be produced by the [pulsed] laser [system] source,
based on known properties of a target material to be processed on a workpiece;
selecting, [a repetition rate] independently of the pre-selected pulse shape, a time interval between at least two successive transmissions of pulses onto the workpiece; and
pulsing the pulsed laser system [at the repetition rate selected independently of the pre-selected pulse shape,] by closing the switch for a fixed, predetermined period of time prior to each emission period regardless of the time interval between the at least two successive transmissions of pulses onto the workpiece, so as to cause the laser source to process the target material on the workpiece, with the selected time interval between the at least two successive transmissions of pulses onto the workpiece, while the pre-selected pulse shape remains as preset regardless of the [repetition rate] time interval, without selection of the [repetition rate] time interval affecting the pulse shape.

55. (Twice amended) A method of operating a pulsed laser system comprising:
providing a pulsed laser system comprising a laser source and a switch configured to be closed to cause energy to be stored by the laser source for a desired period of time, and to be opened to allow energy to be emitted from the laser source during an emission period;
presetting a pre-selected [repetition rate at which the pulsed laser system is to be operated] time interval between at least two successive transmissions of pulses onto a workpiece,
based on known properties of a target material to be processed on [a] the workpiece;

selecting, [a pulse shape] independently of the pre-selected [repetition rate] time interval,
a pulse shape to be produced by the laser source; and

pulsing the pulsed laser system with the pulse shape selected independently of the pre-selected [repetition rate] time interval, by closing the switch for a fixed, predetermined period of time prior to each emission period regardless of the time interval between the at least two successive transmissions of pulses onto the workpiece, so as to cause the laser source to process the target material on the workpiece, while the pre-selected [repetition rate] time interval remains as preset regardless of the pulse shape, without selection of the pulse shape affecting the [repetition rate] time interval.